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# The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1881.)

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March 27, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 60 2 p.m. 62  
Humidity 85 71

March 27, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 52 2 p.m. 59  
Humidity 58 50

WEATHER FORECAST  
OVERCAST.  
Barometer 29.96.

7902 日五十月二

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1918.

三拜禮 號七廿月三英港香

SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS  
\$36 PER ANNUM.

## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

### TERRIFIC BATTLES CONTINUE IN FRANCE.

#### UNIVERSAL CONFIDENCE IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

##### GERMANS SHOW SIGNS OF FLAGGING: TALK OF A LONG STRUGGLE.

London, March 25.  
The Press Bureau announces:—Our troops this morning on the Somme, and to the north of Wancourt, beat off continuous heavy attacks with complete success. Our artillery and machine-guns are inflicting heavy losses. Our low-flying aeroplanes are repeatedly attacking the enemy's advancing columns, farther in the rear. A heavy attack this afternoon by fresh enemy troops enabled them to progress west and south-west of Bapaume, in the direction of Courcellette. We have been pressed back south of Peronne and at several places to slightly west of the Somme.

##### The Empire's Pride.

London, March 25.  
The Press Bureau announces:—“The Cabinet wishes to express to the Army the nation's thanks for its splendid defence. The whole Empire is filled with pride in watching the heroic resistance of the brave troops against over-whelming odds. Knowing their steadfastness and courage whenever the country's honour depends upon their valour, the Empire confidently awaits the result of this struggle to defeat the enemy's last desperate effort to trample down the free nations. We at home are prepared to do all in our power to help in the true spirit of comradeship. The men necessary to replace all casualties, and guns and machine-guns required to make good the losses, are either now in France or already en route. Still further reinforcements of men and guns are ready to be thrown in the battle.”—Lloyd George.

##### Close Infantry Fighting.

London, March 25.  
Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, wiring on the evening of March 25, says:—The titanic struggle is unabated and continues, although the enemy's artillery firing shows a tendency to decrease, owing to the increasing difficulties of advancing the guns. On the contrary, no stage of the war has seen such close infantry fighting as yesterday. British infantry made a bayonet charge and broke enemy ranks and secured 120 prisoners from one battalion. The 24th Division captured a post in a great quarry commanding one of the main lines of the enemy advance and fought to the last man in delaying the enemy, piling up corpses in a semi-circular barricade breast high around the quarry.

The manner in which guns, tanks and transport have been withdrawn behind the retreating line constitutes a marvellous feat. After crossing the Somme we blew up all the bridges except one, which was so commanded by our guns that it was advantageous to leave it. The enemy casualties in his efforts to cross the Somme have been prodigious. Again and again massed parties on rafts and pontoons have been annihilated by our guns. Ultimately a passage was effected by the famous Brandenburg Iron Corps near Licourt, under a hailstorm of fire and only after innumerable failures.

At a certain place a large force of the enemy had thrust its way through and gained what promised to develop into a distinct tactical advantage, but during an enemy pause to reorganise, ten tanks advanced and caused havoc among the German ranks and finally drove them back. The scenes on the roads leading to the rear have been most remarkable during the past three days, with parties of civilians and villagers shepherded by soldiers mixed with labour groups of impetuous Orientals in all varieties of headgear and African natives grinning as though the thing were a huge joke. Here a clay-caked armoured-car speeding back for ammunition, there a motor lorry stacked with maps and records, with a red-hatted officer perched on top.

##### Our Army to do Its Utmost.

London, March 25.  
The Press Bureau announces that Sir Douglas Haig has replied to His Majesty's message and says that it has given universal encouragement to the whole Army. “I beg Your Majesty to accept our grateful thanks and the assurance that we will steadfastly continue to do our utmost to deserve the inspiring confidence of your Majesty and the people throughout the Empire, placed on us at this hour of national stress.”

##### Hard Fighting.

London, March 25.  
A German official wireless message states:—There is hard fighting between Bapaume and Peronne. We drove back the enemy here to positions he held before the 1916 battle of the Somme. Our troops are fighting their way forward between the Somme and the Oise.

##### The Loss of Bapaume.

London, March 26.  
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy's troops occupy Bapaume. There has been most severe fighting all day on wide fronts south of Peronne and south and north of Bapaume. The enemy attacked our positions in great strength with fresh forces, and, despite a gallant resistance, we were forced to give up ground. The enemy occupies Nesle and Bapaume. Heavy fighting continues.

##### German's Prepare Public for Long Struggle.

London, March 26.  
A message from Amsterdam says the German newspapers are preparing the public for a long struggle. The Cologne Gazette reminds the people that the Germans are dealing most fortisably with the enemy and that there is a stupendous task ahead. The British, it says, are fighting with extraordinary determination and bravery.

The Cologne Volkszeitung says the gigantic struggle cannot be shortly ended, perhaps not for months.

Several papers point out that the Allies' general reserve has not yet been called upon.

##### American Experts Confident.

London, March 26.  
According to Reuter's correspondent at Washington, General Wood, testifying before the Senate Military Committee, declared that experts are unanimously confident that the German offensive will fail. He recommended that an American Army of two million men be maintained abroad as soon as possible and that another two million be trained.

## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

### TERRIFIC BATTLES CONTINUE IN FRANCE.

#### Our Aeroplanes at Work.

London, March 26.  
Reporting on aviation, Sir Douglas Haig says:—The activity in the air is most great. The day has been remarkable for the weight of bombs dropped and the number of flights. Many thousand rounds have been fired from low altitudes upon the enemy's troops. Aeroplanes have reported the progress of the battle and informed the artillery of suitable targets. Low-flying machines have bombed and machine-gunned masses of troops in the battle area and over 1,700 bombs were dropped in the day-time on different targets, including Bruges Dock, Aulnoye railway station, a large camp south-east of Cambrai, high velocity guns in the battle area, and the fighting in the most severe yet experienced. We brought down forty-seven enemy machines and drove down twenty-two uncontrollable. Ten of our machines are missing.

After dark, we continued bombing and machine-gunning enemy troops opposite the battle front and also bombed Bruges Dock and aerodromes between Tournai and Mons, used by night-fliers. Over fourteen tons of bombs were dropped. All the machines returned. One large enemy bomber landed behind our lines.

Following a successful daylight raid on Mannheim and other objectives in Germany, we attacked at night-time and dropped half a ton of bombs on railway stations at Cologne, starting a fire. Over a ton of bombs was distributed over a Luxembourg railway station, where a fire was started, and on Courcelles railway station, to the east of Metz, and two tons on Metz railway station. There were two direct hits on a bridge south-east of the town and on a stationary train which was set on fire. A large fire was also started. We also dropped a ton of bombs on Thionville railway station, where a moving train was derailed and a fire caused. All of our machines returned.

#### Effect of News in New York.

London, March 26.  
A New York message says the news of the fighting has stimulated recruiting. There was a rush of applicants for enlistment yesterday.

#### President Wilson's Prediction.

London, March 26.  
A Washington message states that President Wilson has telegraphed Sir Douglas Haig congratulating him on the British stand and predicting final victory.

#### Our Splendid Gunners.

London, March 26.  
Mr. Philip Gibbs writes as follows:—The British heavy guns and field-guns have been handled with marvellous discipline in rearward actions in positions which became untenable, the gunners firing for hours at masses of Germans moving in close vicinity, causing deadly losses, but the masses have not ceased to advance, bearing down on the defenders by a ceaseless tide. Some guns have been abandoned, but many have been withdrawn across the Somme. The gunners are taking up their new positions and re-entering action like exhibition batteries.

#### German's Rapid Movement of Heavy Guns.

London, March 26.  
Mr. Percival Phillips says:—The most remarkable feature of the German advance has been the rapid movement of heavy guns. This phase of open warfare had been carefully rehearsed for months. British airmen saw Howitzers lumbering along the roads in endless columns, and motor lorries bringing up shells to the new positions. The guns come into action anywhere in the open. Field batteries are repeatedly seen galloping boldly across rising ground less than a mile from the British. Behind the advancing armies comes an other army of workmen, repairing the destroyed railways and bridges and erecting new hospitals and aerodromes. The offensive in the air is being prosecuted with equal vigour. Large formations of Gothas have nightly tried to cut the communications and have dropped unusually heavy explosives, but the damage done is insignificant.

#### Hopes for the Future.

London, March 26.  
Colonel Repington says:—Bapaume and Peronne have fallen four days after the German scheduled time. There is every reason to hope that the flood will soon be stayed and turned back. The combatants in the central sector are now fighting in the devastated area of the Somme. Farther west are the trenches which the British held before July, 1916, and before the retirement brings the British to these trenches such a strong line of troops should be pushed that the farther progress of the enemy should be arrested.

#### A Significant Admission.

London, March 26.  
According to Reuter's correspondent at Zurich, General Aussenberg, interviewed by a Budapest newspaper, said:—This decisive battle will last for some time. Forces of the Central Powers thousands of kilometres away may be still engaged therein. The final decision may be dependent upon them after immense losses by both sides.

#### Vigorous French Counter-Attack.

London, March 26.  
A French communique states:—In the region of Nancy, the battle continues to rage furiously. The enemy is being driven back in reinforcements. Our troops, obeying orders, are yielding ground foot by foot, delivering vigorous counter-attacks and inflicting heavy losses. A desperate fight occurred near Metz, which changed hands several times. Rheims has received 1,255 shells during the past twenty-four hours.

#### The Kaiser's Boasts.

London, March 26.  
According to a message from Amsterdam, a Berlin statement says the Kaiser has telegraphed to the Kaiserin, dated 26/3, that the German troops are pressing on west of Bapaume and farther south are advancing on Albert. The Kaiser has been crowned at many points, and the capture is claimed of enormous quantities of ammunition and provisions. “Just as in the Somme battle.”

## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

### TERRIFIC BATTLES CONTINUE IN FRANCE.

#### British People Determined.

London, March 26.  
As evidence develops that the Germans are unlikely to gain a decision in the face of the magnificent British resistance, public opinion, which, though anxious, has never been unduly depressed, is now bracing itself in determination to acquiesce in whatever measures are necessary to meet an admittedly critical situation. All contention has been silenced. There was a flicker of Labour restlessness at Manchester recently, when unofficial representatives of the engineers threatened to strike against the man power proposals, but this was promptly extinguished. An outbreak of popular indignation, in which even the pacifists joined, and meetings of district branches of the Amalgamated Engineers, yesterday repudiated the Manchester decisions, in which the Executive had no part.

Everywhere unshaken confidence is expressed that the undaunted front presented by the British troops will baffie the enemy, who, with troops four or five times more numerous, has only scored a moderate success, endured colossal losses and is already showing signs of flagging. The net result of the German movement so far is the making of three bulges in the British line, namely south of Arras, at Bapaume and towards Nesle. But he has failed in the north, where the steadiness of the British line has checked the enemy's double thrust.

That the enemy's offensive has a political object is corroborated by an article by a prominent Londoner, Mr. Ernest Pyke, who was recently released from Ruhleben after three and a half years and who frequently visited Berlin as a Camp Kitchen Inspector. Mr. Pyke says the present desperate move is undoubtedly dictated by fear of the mob, as the German people are suffering unspeakable privations and are aching for peace and food. This estimate is confirmed by the reiterated assurances in enemy communiques recently that peace is near at hand. Contrariwise, British opinion is confident of Allied reserve power rallying to a determination to endure, if necessary, a most protracted conflict.

The Morning Post demands the immediate convocation of Parliament for the purpose of sanctioning an extension of national service; the raising of the age limit, the abolishing of all exceptions including conscientious objectors and departmental indispensables, and the Irish. The journal is confident that no trouble need be apprehended from Labour.

The Times notes with pride and satisfaction the fortitude with which the country is facing a grave situation. It says the one desire is that the Government shall lose no time in making whatever fresh demands may be required of the civilian population. It points out that the Germans have not succeeded in the supreme object of driving a wedge between the Anglo-French armies, and remarks that the prospect of such a success is more remote than ever. It says the immediate problem is whether the Anglo-French forces are able to reconquer approximately the 1916 line.

The Daily News demands a more detailed statement of the progress of the battle from Headquarters, and says if there is unfavourable news the public would prefer to learn it from its own officials' statement than from the Germans.

#### GOOD WORK BY NAVAL AEROPLANES.

London, March 26.  
The Admiralty announces that naval aeroplanes from Dunkirk, between the 21st and the 24th instant, destroyed ten enemy machines and brought down seven uncontrolled. They also brought down a hostile balloon and carried out three bombing raids on Bruges Docks. Many direct hits were made on sheds on the quays, while bombs burst close to destroyers. Aeroplanes attacked several torpedo-boats, a destroyer and an armed trawler. A pilot who was forced to descend to the sea was picked up by a French destroyer. All the others returned.

#### THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

London, March 26.  
A Palestine official message states:—We threw fresh bridges across the Jordan on the night of the 23rd. We progressed by the night of the 24th nine miles through difficult mountainous country in the direction of Esalt. Our advanced mounted troops secured the bridge at El Howej, three miles south of the town. Tarco Germans opposing the advance were taken prisoner. The London Infantry Battalion, in a brilliant attack, captured an entire battery. Aeroplanes, including Australian units, effectively bombed, directly hitting troops and transport camps, also trains on the Hedjaz Railway.

#### PETROL CONTROL.

##### Rationing for Bombay.

Bombay, 28th February.—A Bombay Government Notification announces the appointment of Mr. M. J. Gibbs as Assistant Controller for Petrol for effecting economies in consumption of petrol. The Government notification says: It is necessary to effect economies in the consumption of petrol to the lowest point consistent with necessary use. There is a probability of shortages of supply recurring in Bombay and the least (tonnage necessary must be used for the carriage of petrol to India. It has therefore been decided to introduce a system of modified rationing.

Rules are published for the control in the consumption of petrol. The requirements of each car will be assessed, and a monthly quantity permitted as a supply in the Oil Allowance. The assessment will be based on the owner's application, and will be based on the following principal considerations:—Size and make of car, average normal mileage per gallon, proved consumption of car in one of the residences of the owner, and purposes for which car is used. Car owners for each car will be given both a card and a book of coupons, the latter containing forty coupons for one gallon each. No petrol will be supplied to a car owner without the production of a card, which will be initiated each time by the supplier of petrol. The supply is to be obtained from one dealer only during a month. Purchases from another dealer, or additional supply will be allowed in exceptional cases. Special rates will be allowed. The rules will govern the supply of petrol to taxis. Sale or transfer of petrol by one consumer to another is absolutely prohibited. The notification further warns that as the system is being introduced, the supply of petrol will be limited, and that the owner must not rely on the amount of petrol he has on hand.

## TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

### THE SILVER MARKET.

London, March 25.  
The silver market is steady.

### WAR COMFORTS.

Hongkong Financial Statements.

We have been requested to give publicity to the following:—  
War Charities Store Sub-Committee.—Summary of Receipts and Expenses from 1st April to 31st December, 1917.

Receipts.

Subscriptions collected...

Donations collected...

Received from Hon. Treasurer of War Charities, April to December, 1917...

44,671.72

445,131.50

Payments.

For Materials...

Less collected for sale of Materials...

44,234.45

For charges and petrol...

For Sewing Machines...

Table and Cupboards...

445,131.50

I have audited the foregoing account and have found it to be a correct statement of receipts and payments. I have seen vouchers for all disbursements.

C. BERNARD BROWN, A.C.A.

A. M. L. L. L.

Hon. Treasurer.

War Charities Store Sub-Committee, Hongkong, 16th March, 1918.

War Hospitals Supply Depot from 13th December, 1916, to 9th May, 1918, Hongkong Association of Women War Workers from 9th May, 1916 to 31st March, 1917, War Charities Store Sub-Committee 1st April, 1917 to 31st December, 1917.—Combined Summary of Receipts and Expenses:—

Receipts.

Subscription collected \$...

Donations collected...

Received from Hon. Treasurer of War Charities, April 1916 to December, 1917...

85,372.17

\$ 90,481.02

Payments.

\$90,913.39

Less collected for Sale of Materials...

For Freight charges, sundry petrol, cost of Wardrobes, Cupboards, Tables and Sewing Machines...

1,813.35

\$ 90,481.02

I have audited the foregoing account and have found it to be a correct statement of receipts and payments. I have seen Vouchers for all disbursements.

C. BERNARD BROWN, A.C.A.

A. M. L. L. L.

Hon. Treasurer.

War Hospitals Supply Depot, Hongkong Association of Women War Workers and War Charities Store Sub-Committee, Hongkong, 16th March, 1918.

legitimate use. If it is found to be abused even by a small number, the condition of all will have to be made strict. Wilful evasions or abuse of regulations will lead to the supply of petrol for the persons in default being cut off for a greater or lesser period. The object of the regulations is to reduce the consumption, and owners are warned that they must state their own legitimate consumption, and that they must not rely on the amount of petrol they have on hand.







## GENERAL NEWS.

## 21,000 Worth of Hounds Destroyed.

At Upton-on-Severn (Worcestershire) Tribunal Will Friend, the huntsman, mentioned that, acting on the instructions of the Master of the Croome Hunt, in deference to an official appeal to reduce the number of hounds, he had destroyed 21,000 worth of hounds. The loss would fall entirely on the Master, Mr. W. J. Greenou.

## Family's Tragic Losses.

Private W. Lee of Cheshire, who belongs to the Middlesex Regiment, has received news that one of his sons has been killed in action, that two other sons are reported missing, and that another son has been wounded for the third time. A fifth son is about to leave for the front. The father who only joined up last year, is now under treatment for wounds received in action.

## Unhappy Coincidences.

There are striking coincidences in connection with the deaths in action in France of two Hinkley soldiers, Privates Geo. Mason and W. A. Hurst, of the Northumberland Fusiliers. Friends and neighbours in civil life, they joined up together on March 18, 1916, were trained together, and have since been fighting side by side. Both fell in the same action, and their bodies were buried together. By a further coincidence their birthdays fell on the same day.

## Killed in Bayonet Bout.

A friendly bayonet bout between two soldiers at Crosshaven, Co. Cork, on Christmas night had a fatal result. The men engaged were Private A. W. Turberfield, of the Shropshire Light Infantry, and Private Efferman. The scabbard of Efferman's bayonet fell off just as he was about to parry, and the point entered Turberfield's heart and lungs. The men were on most friendly terms and Turberfield, who died twenty minutes later, said to Efferman when the accident happened, "You have got me this time, chum." At the inquest yesterday a verdict of accidental death was returned.

Dinner to Mr. Philip Gibbs. Mr. Philip Gibbs, the War Correspondent, who was home on leave from the front for a few days, recently, was entertained at dinner at the Savoy Hotel. Mr. Robert Donald, Editor of the Daily Chronicle, was in the chair, and among those present were the Prime Minister, Lord Balfour, Sir William Robertson Nicoll, Sir George Biddell, Sir Henry Daisiel, M.P., and Captain the Hon. F. Guest, M.P. The guests included a number of well-known journalists. Lord Balfour proposed the health of Mr. Gibbs, and the toast was supported by Mr. H. W. Nevillson and the Prime Minister.

More Wages, More Food. For the purposes of settling agricultural wages under the Corn Production Act district committees have been appointed in various areas in England and Wales. Their duties will be to recommend to the Agricultural Wages Board the minimum rates of wages applicable to their areas; grant permits exempting non-bodily men from the minimum wage provisions of the Act; and to hear complaints and terminate arrears in respect of workers employed on piecework. b-committees may be appointed, whom powers may be delegated.

Joffre's New Honour. Paris, Dec. 28.—Formal notification has been given of Marshal Joffre's willingness to one a member of the French Academy. After M. Denys Cochin announced yesterday that he received a letter from Marshal Joffre concerning his candidature, Academy issued a note stating the assembly would be proud welcome the marshal in its st. This action dispenses that Joffre, who is now at African Headquarters, from the traditional visits to Lemaitre. No Marshal of France has been elected to the Academy since the Revolution. Marshals were elected under the monarchy, one being elected in 1805.

## NOTICES.



|                                          |                   |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 64581 Bird of the Wilderness The...      | Cluck.            |
| 64538 But Lately in Dance I Embraced Her | Aldar             |
| 17772a Forcetta-Tarantella               | Vesella's Band    |
| b La Geisha-Fantasia                     | Do                |
| 4177 Face to Face (Johnson)              | Williams          |
| 64171 I'm Falling in Love with Some One  | McCormack         |
| 18287 (What a Friend We have in Jesus)   | Mr & Mrs. Wheeler |
| b That Sweet Story of Old                | Baker             |
| 47271 Pourquoi?                          | Caruso            |
| 64512 Songs without Words (Violin)       | Kreiser           |
| 64310 A Heart a Throat at Eve            | McCormack         |
| 74479 Meisterlanger-Prize Song           | McCormack         |

## Save Your Eyes

If you have  
HEADACHES  
Suspect your eyes.

## N. LAZARUS

OPHTHALMIC OPTICIAN  
28, Queen's Road Central.

## WORK FOR OBJECTORS.

New Regulations for Men of Good Conduct.

Additional rules, issued by the Committee on the Employment of Conscientious Objectors, state that men of good conduct and industry may, by 12 months' good conduct and industry, qualify for exceptional employment in work of national importance.

The work may be found by the Committee or by the men themselves, but in that case it must be approved by the Committee.

One of the conditions laid down is that men so employed must refrain from propaganda of every kind during the period of the war. The circulation of the News Sheet, or any similar publication, is forbidden. Dependents, if any, will not continue to receive separation allowance, but the man will be entitled to the full wages paid by his employer in respect of his labour.

Other conditions are:—Applicant must have at least twelve months' record of good conduct and industry.

Satisfy the Committee that he has means of travelling to the employment if authorised.

Take up the employment within 14 days of receiving the Committee's authority. His conduct both in his employment and otherwise, and his industry, must be satisfactory, and he must obtain from his employer and forward to the Committee monthly a report stating whether he remains in his employment and whether his conduct and industry have been satisfactory.

In the event of failure to observe the conditions the Committee may recommend that the man be sent back to prison, or to the Army, as the case may be.

Prima Donna Married. Miss Alice Nielsen, the American prima donna, was secretly married to Dr. Percy Stoddard at Greenwich (Conn.) recently. Miss Nielsen appeared at Covent Garden, London, in "La Boheme" and "Balletto" in 1905.

## BANK HOLIDAYS.

IN ACCORDANCE with Ordinance No. 5 of 1912 the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the transaction of Public Business on FRIDAY, SATURDAY and MONDAY, the 29th and 30th, instant and 1st, proximo.

Hongkong, 25th March, 1918.

## NOTICE.

UNION WATERBOAT CO. LIMITED.

ONE Certificate No. 576 for Twenty One Shares Nos. 27,000 to 27,020 inclusive, in this Company, standing in the name of Mr. Li Man Hing has been lost; and if at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above Certificate be not forthcoming, another Certificate for the said shares will be issued by the Company, and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.

UNION WATERBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.  
Dodwell & Co., Ltd.  
General Managers.  
Hongkong, 26th March, 1918.

## MARATHON RACE.

Open to all Services, Universities, Colleges, Schools and the Public generally.

Statue Square (Law Courts) to Shaukiwan and back.

Distance, about 10 miles.

SATURDAY, April 13th 1918.

Starting at 3 P.M.

Prizes according to number of Entries.

Conditions:—Go as you please.

No stopping.

Minimum clothing: singlet and shorts.

Entrance fee one Dollar, to be sent with name and rank (if any) to:—

Staff Inspector J. C. Wildin.

Hongkong Police Reserve.

Headquarters.

Princes Buildings, Ice House Street.

Entries close on Saturday, April 6th.

## Prepaid Advertisements.

ONE CENT PER WORD  
FOR EACH INSERTION.

## TO BE LET.

TO BE LET.—HOUSES on Shameen, CANTON.

OFFICES in York Buildings.

Apply to:—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

## TO BE LET.

TO BE LET.—LARGE ROOM on the ground floor of the Old Supreme Court. Apply to NORONHA & CO.

## WANTED.

WANTED.—FIRST-CLASS LADY STENOGRAPHER. Good position for the right one. State experience and salary required, giving references. Apply to Box 1367 c/o Hongkong Telegraph.

TO BE LET.—A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

FOUR ROOMED-HOUSES in Kowloon.

Apply to:—

HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., LTD., Alexandra Buildings.

## FOR SALE.

FOR SALE.—TUSCULUM, Barker Road, 155 Peak apply DUNCAN CLARK, c/o Lane, Crawford & Co.

## NOTICES.

THE  
HERRING-HALL-MARVIN  
SAFE  
STANDS UNEQUALLED IN THE WORLD TO-DAY

ALL SIZES IN STOCK—PRICES ON APPLICATION

MUSTARD & CO.,  
4, DES VŒUX ROAD CENTRAL. TELEPHONE 1188.

AGENTS IN HONGKONG, AMOY, SWATOW and CANTON.  
BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO Co.

## DISINFECTION

IS MOST NECESSARY TO YOU AT THIS TIME.

We Hold Stocks of:—

JEYES' FLUID  
SANITAS OKOL  
SANITAS SOLDIS in one gallon Drums or larger quantities

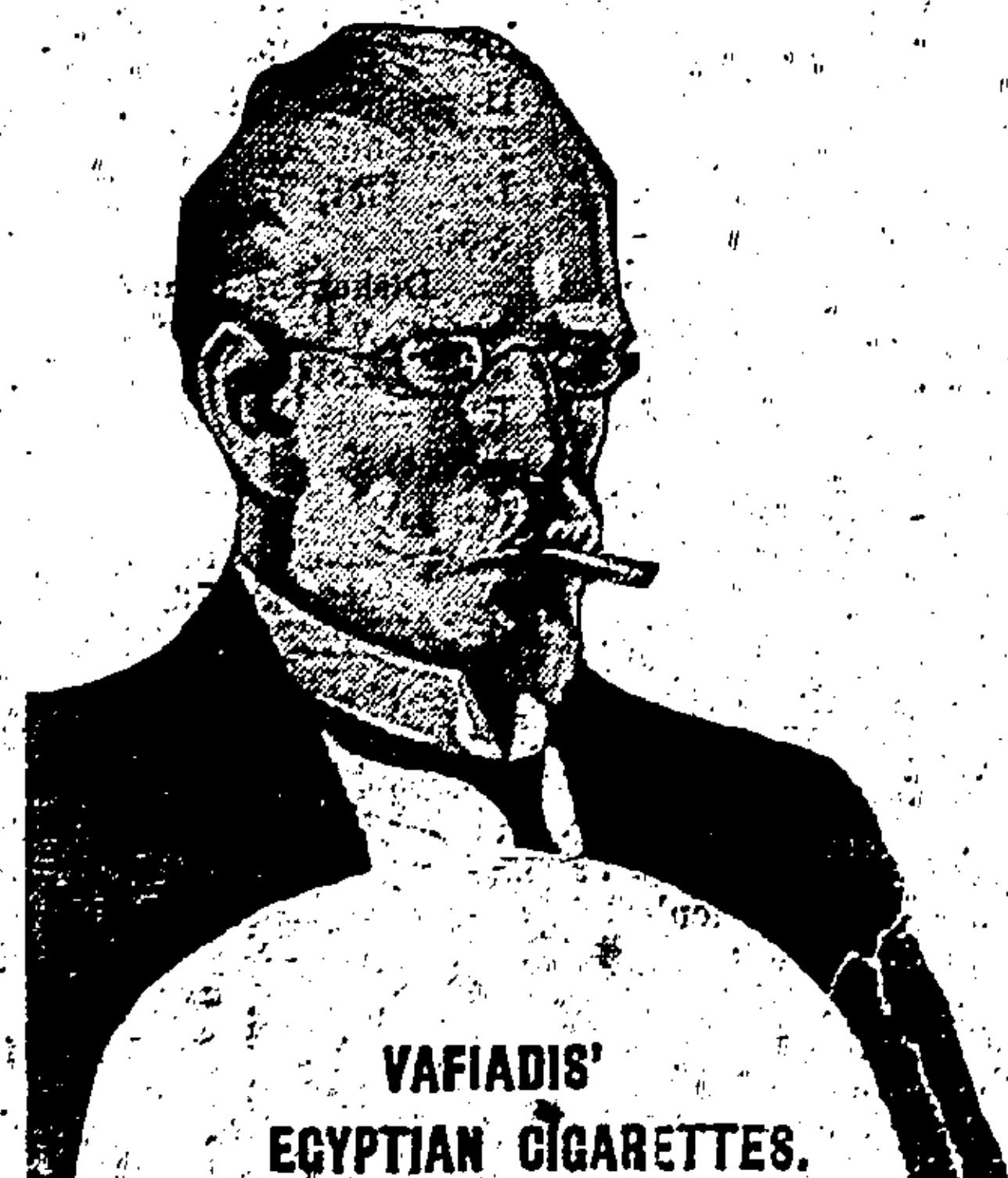
COSSAGE'S CARBOLIC SOAP.

PERCHLORIDE OF MERCURY, in wholesale quantities.

For Prices Apply to:—

## W. G. HUMPHREYS &amp; CO.

5, DUDELL STREET.



|                                   |     |        |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Imperial Bouquet per Crown Prince | 100 | \$5.30 |
|                                   | 100 | 4.65   |
|                                   | 50  | 2.35   |
|                                   | 10  | .50    |
| Extra Fine (Grand Format)         | 50  | 2.35   |
| Nectar                            | 50  | 2.35   |
| Yildiz                            | 25  | 1.10   |
| Club Size                         | 10  | .40    |
| Non Plus Ultra                    | 100 | 3.60   |
|                                   | 50  | 1.85   |
|                                   | 20  | .75    |
| Superfine                         | 100 | 2.40   |
|                                   | 50  | 1.20   |

SOLE AGENTS:—

THE HONGKONG CIGAR STORE CO., LD.

HOTEL MANSIONS

## NOTICES.

## I. &amp; R. MORLEY'S

SUMMER WEIGHT

TEL.  
692

SOCKS  
AND

UNDER WEAR.

IN

ALL QUALITIES.

## J. T. SHAW

NEXT DOOR TO THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

## LANE, CRAWFORD &amp; CO.

TELEPHONE 1941.

GROCERIES, PROVISIONS

AND

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BEST QUALITY OBTAINABLE AT THE

LOWEST PRICE POSSIBLE.

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A SAFE AND SIMPLE APPLICATION.

HAS BEEN USED WITH CONSPICUOUS SUCCESS IN THE TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS, SPRAINS, BRUISES, BOILS, BURNS, AND IN ALL INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS WHERE LOCAL TREATMENT IS REQUIRED.

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Easy to use and Entirely supersedes the old fashioned LINSEED POULTICES, BLISTERS, PLASTERS, Etc.

Sole Agents: A. S. WATSON & CO. LTD Hongkong & China.

## NOTICES.

THE HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

APPLICATION forms for Membership of the above Association may be obtained from all the Banks or from the undersigned.

THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.  
Honorary Secretaries & Treasurers.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1917.

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## The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1918.

### THE GREAT BATTLE.

The latest telegrams to hand convey the impression that the great battle continues with unabated fury, the enemy attacking recklessly in massed formation and adopting what is expressively termed "crash-through" tactics over a wide area and being met with dogged resistance by the British troops. On excellent authority it is stated that the Germans, though they claim much, have so far completely failed to accomplish what they hoped. They announce that they have crossed the Somme at many points, but they neglect to state that they have since been "driven back with great loss." This fact we have in one of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's despatches, the general tone of which is refreshingly reassuring. In the same despatch it is stated that the enemy "at only one point reached the trenches" and, better still, that "they were immediately thrown out."

Obviously, the Germans are meeting with resistance such as they little anticipated, notwithstanding the avalanche of troops and the fury of artillery firing that they have let loose with such reckless prodigality. Equally significant is the fact that the enemy is no longer boasting so loudly of the number of prisoners he has taken, or of the guns he has captured. It is, of course, inevitable that in such a gigantic struggle the losses on both sides should be enormous, and that they are certain to be very much greater on the side that indulges in reckless rushes, as is the case with the Germans, is being made more evident as the battle progresses. The British line is not yet broken and, as time passes, and the enemy's plans are more clearly revealed, it is not likely to be broken. Already, as Sir Douglas Haig's despatch shows, our troops are doing much more than maintaining a "killing defence"; they are, at several points, attacking with splendid determination and meeting with such success that cannot but be extremely disconcerting to the Germans, who have staked all on breaking through the British line.

The news therefore may fairly be stated to be of a very satisfactory nature, and such as to cause us to continue to hold the opinion that this forlorn hope of the enemy is certain of defeat. Such an onslaught as the enemy is attempting cannot but meet with disaster unless the early success upon which he has founded everything is speedily realized. Already it is clear that his original plans have miscarried and it is impossible for him to continue pouring forth such an avalanche indefinitely. Sooner or later, he must be exhausted, and then it is probable that the end will soon come—and such an end as is very unlikely to be that predicted by the Germans when they set out upon their desperate adventure. Their best troops are probably being used up rapidly, and with repeated failure the morale of the enemy, never very sound when being worsted, will be detrimentally affected.

To-day's telegrams show that both French and American troops are now participating in the struggle and that the enemy, while continuing to make progress at certain points north of Peronne and Bapaume, are doing so very slowly. The fall of the French town is confirmed, and it would appear that for strategic reasons it was deemed advisable by our troops to evacuate the latter without offering further resistance. According to no less an authority than Colonel Bampton, "there is every reason to hope that the flood will soon be stayed and turned back." It is also clear that the Germans are now, by no means so hopeful as they first were, and the German people are being reminded by their newspapers that they have a "stupendous task" ahead. In the telegram from His Majesty the King to Sir Douglas Haig, as well as in the Field Marshal's reply to it, in Mr. Lloyd George's message to the Nation's thanks, the expression of American opinion, together with the reports from various sources at the front, it may reasonably be concluded that the enemy's desperate effort will be successfully coped with at no distant date.

#### Hongkong Shipbuilding.

Although it is not the habit of shipbuilding companies to tell the world all that they are doing these days, sufficient was indicated at the annual meeting of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company to show that the Colony is still playing a by no means unimportant part in the construction of tonnage which is so much needed at the present time. From the Chairman's speech it is evident that the Company is not only in a very sound financial condition at the present moment, but that it has a keen eye on future extensions with the view of building more and yet larger vessels. These are factors which certainly reflect the highest credit on the management at a time like the present, when companies of this kind find it extremely difficult to obtain necessary material for building purposes. The unusual conditions prevailing are reflected in the fact that the first standard ship, and the largest yet put out by the Company, is at present under construction at its yards—a fact which shows that Hongkong is not behind the times in shipbuilding. There is promise, too, of a steady expansion in construction work by this Company, as well as by Takao, the other big concern, and we do not doubt that after the war there will be a great future for shipbuilding in this Colony of ours. We have shown in the war the class of work of which our local shipyards are capable, and we may depend upon it that the Colony's record in this respect will not be lost sight of when peace is at length reached.

#### Women's Work.

The public of Hongkong, or a considerable portion of it, is probably unaware of the extent to which the activities of women war workers here have expanded, but some idea of what is being done may be imagined from the financial statements which we publish elsewhere to-day. These cover the War Hospitals Supply Depot, the Hongkong Association of Women War Workers and the War Charities Store Sub-Committee—the body which now controls the work—and the position is shown down to the end of last year. During the period dealt with, no less a sum than \$90,000 was spent on materials, which is itself an indication of the huge amount of work which has been done. Donations and subscriptions total about \$5,000, the balance being received from the War Charities Committee. The statements show in what manner the money has been expended, and we are sure that it has been put to the very best advantage. All concerned with the work are to be commended for their continued application in this excellent self-imposed task, which is resulting in increased comfort and happiness for our sick and wounded heroes.

#### China's Political Barometer.

Out of the medley of Peking politics the fact emerges, on the authority of Reuters' correspondent in the capital, that Tuan Chih-jui has been re-appointed Premier. This event is believed, by those who have been able to follow the confusing intricacies presented of late, in even a more aggravated form than usual, of Chinese politics, to be a "political triumph" for the northern Provincial Governors, particularly in view of their recent military successes against the southerners. If such be the case—and all well-wishers of a well-governed and stable China will sincerely trust that the belief is well-founded—it is an event that deserves to be thoroughly and generally approved of. It is not too soon that Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his followers in the South and General Li Lit-chuan and his fellow-intriguers in the Yangtze provinces should receive something in the nature of a curb to their activities, all of which are clearly subversive of that order and good government of which China stands much in need; and which we are still firmly of opinion can be realized only by a Central Government, situated in Peking, one which by its actions will obtain and deserve the support of the country as a whole.

#### DAY BY DAY.

HE JUST AT SCARS THAT NEVER FELT A WOUND.—Shakespeare.

To-morrow's Anniversary.  
To-morrow is the third anniversary of the torpedoing of the liner Falaba.

The Dollar.  
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s. 1d.

Good Friday.  
A service is to be held at St. Peter's Church on Good Friday at 11 a.m. The Rev. W. T. Featherstone will preach.

Spotted Fever.  
For the twenty-four hours ended yesterday, there were 24 cases of spotted fever notified, of which 19 occurred in the city of Victoria all the sufferers were Chinese and there were 19 deaths.

Paraffin Wax Stolen.  
The managing partner of the Xuen Wo Company, of 81, Connaught Road Central, reports to the Police that between March 22 and 28 some person forced open a store at 111, Canton Road, Kowloon, and stole 20 barrels of paraffin wax, valued at \$1,200.

Snatching Case.  
Mr. D. V. Stevenson appeared to defend a Chinese who was charged before Mr. Dyer Ball, at the Magistracy this morning, with snatching a pair of gold earrings from a Chinese woman in Des Voeux Road yesterday. The case was remanded for a week, bail being fixed at \$200.

Stealing A Stove.  
A Chinese, who was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with the larceny of a cooking stove from 9, Des Voeux Road West, made the excuse that he had only gone into the house to look for a friend. Evidence was given that the defendant was seen taking the stove away. His Worship sent the man to prison for six weeks with hard labour.

Thief of Clothes.  
A coolie, who had been given permission to sleep in a Club in Des Voeux Road West whilst he obtained work, helped himself to several articles of clothing from a bundle which had been deposited there for safe custody by one of the members. The coolie was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Magistracy this morning, when he admitted the theft and also the pawing of the clothes. Sentence of one month's hard labour was passed.

Alice Memorial Hospital.  
The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—J. D. Hutchinson & Co., \$100; Reiss & Co., \$100; Alex. Ross & Co., \$100; D. Sassoon & Co., Ltd., \$100; E. D. Sassoon & Co., \$100; H. Skott & Co., \$100; Dodwell & Co., Ltd., \$75; W. G. Humphreys & Co., \$55; Asiatic Petroleum Co. (South China), Ltd., \$50; Bradley & Co., Ltd., \$50.

Dishonest House Coolie.  
At the Police Court this morning, Mr. Alderman, of the Electrical Department of the Naval Yard, charged his house coolie with stealing two ten-ounce pieces from a locked drawer in his house, at 763 A, Wanchai Road. The lad, who is aged 16, admitted the larceny and was sentenced by Mr. J. R. Wood to 21 days' hard labour. It transpired that the complainant's lost over \$40. All the money placed in the drawer was marked and the money was found on the defendant by Inspector Sim.

Anti-Meningitis Serum from Manila.

Acting upon the request of the British Consul in Manila, (says the Manila Daily Bulletin) the Bureau of Science has supplied the British authorities at Hongkong with a supply of serum to aid in combating the outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis which has assumed the proportions of an epidemic in the British colony. As large a supply as the Bureau was able to spare, was forwarded in appreciation of this service. His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong has transmitted to the Government of the Philippine Islands, and especially to the Bureau of Science, the sincere thanks of the Hongkong Government. The prompt assistance given since the outbreak of the disease.

#### ART OF BUILDING IN COUNTRIES SUBJECTED TO EARTHQUAKES.

The Value of Re-inforced Concrete.

(Contributed).

In two previous articles we have given the summary up to a study of Mr. de Montessus de Ballore on reinforced concrete buildings in the countries exposed to earthquakes, the various conditions under which concrete buildings are to be erected and what kind of dispositions must be taken regarding Style, Materials and Fittings. We have also given numerous instances proving the stability of re-inforced concrete in respect of earthquakes and fire. It now remains to draw the conclusions imposed by facts.

We have seen that the essential condition of resistance for a building subjected to the strain of earthquake vibrations, or to any disturbance whatever its origin might be, lies in the solidarity of the materials used in the building. Such solidarity essentially exists in re-inforced concrete, or in buildings whose frame is of re-inforced concrete. All other elements in these buildings are of secondary importance (such as ornamental or accessory additions) provided that such buildings have been studied and executed by specialists in re-inforced concrete.

A building of that nature is really a monolith. It is without joints, responds to all movements without danger of cracking, and cannot collapse unless its centre of gravity goes out of the vertical line crossing the edge of pivotment.

An iron building, wherein all materials are of rational solidarity, can fulfill up to a certain extent the above conditions, but in that case there are many pieces, fixed up in more or less perfect manner, and each joining constitutes a weak point where rupture may be expected. The same thing does not apply to the ideal block formed by re-inforced concrete.

The Engineering Record of July 18th, 1906, reviewing the improvements made in San Francisco building methods after the earthquake of vivid memory, remarks that re-inforced concrete, up to that date practically ignored, has henceforth come into general use.

We see also that re-inforced concrete, besides its perfect resistance to seismic disturbances, the result of its moduli nature and homogeneity, is moreover considered fire-proof in the highest degree, a sure preventive of catastrophes such as that which lately happened in Canton when a whole district was destroyed by fire.

To give an idea of what may happen in the worst cases, we may mention how a building with re-inforced concrete frame stood the fire which destroyed so many houses in Baltimore on Feb. 7th 1904. The Fidelity and Guaranty E.U. building, German street, a 5 story house with a facade of 20 feet and extending 60 feet in depth which had iron and brick walls, was destroyed by fire, but its internal skeleton made of re-inforced concrete floors and pillars, remained unshaken and standing. The floors which had passed through this ordeal were tested one month later, on March 10th, 1914. A weight double the one contemplated when the building was first erected, was put on the floors, in the presence of Captain John J. Sarrell, of the Engineer Corps of the U.S. The test gave normal results, the floors resisting the pressure without bending or breaking. The trial conclusively proved that the re-inforced concrete frame could be preserved and again used in rebuilding the house. It was used again in fact, only partitions and outside walls had to be rebuilt.

We have seen therefore that ordinary buildings with steel skeleton embedded in cement are not necessarily fire-proof. Only these buildings which are made of re-inforced concrete have that advantage.

Re-inforced concrete is not indeed, as many people think, a mere amalgamation of iron and concrete whose quality depends upon their more or less fortunate combination, or reciprocal action due to the pressure of two opposing elements. It is, possible, in reality, with the same quantity of iron and concrete, by a different synthesis, to obtain in a given work resistances greatly varying in importance, and of practical value corresponding to the degree of experience of the builder. Re-inforced concrete is, properly speaking, a kind of alloy of iron and concrete. The metal, distributed in small sizes and embedded in the mass in well-defined proportions—not at random, of course—

#### PAINT AND PUTTY SHELLS.

Charge of Tampering With Explosives.

"The gravity of the charges could hardly be overestimated," and the authorities intruded to pursue against the defendants the most severe course open under the law. If convicted, defendants were liable to penal servitude for life."

This statement was made by Mr. H. B. Roche, who appeared for the Public Prosecutor in the case in which six men were charged with being parties to a fraudulent scheme for passing off defective and rejected war material as having been passed by Government inspectors.

One of the men charged is Albert Kuperberg, a British subject and a mechanical engineer. It was in a room occupied by Kuperberg that the police found in two tin boxes \$5,030 in notes. The other men charged were:—Alfred Pullinger, Ernest W. Hobson, Percy H. Carr, Thomas Rice, and Arthur E. Ralph.

Mr. Roche, in stating the case, said the methods employed by defendants were to conceal defects in exploded containers by means of paint and putty, and to mix up material which had been rejected with material which had been approved. Two grave consequences followed—First, the Ministry of Munitions was defrauded into paying for absolutely worthless material, and, secondly, far the most serious—ineffective and dangerous material was issued from the various national filling factories for the use of our troops.

Counsel stated that the Ministry of Munitions became disatisfied with the output of defendants' company. Investigations were made, and it was found that, comparing the value of the output with the amount paid to the company by the Ministry, as advances, there had been an excess payment of \$8,600.

Defendants were remanded, Kuperberg being refused bail.

makes concrete strong and at the same time protects the metal against oxidation and fire penetration. The metal can thus stand, besides the strain of compression, also that of stretching and cutting. Such concrete work, superintended by a specialist, besides its qualities of Resistance, Continuity, Elasticity and Incombustibility, gives a maximum of homogeneity and constitutes a block with internal partitions reproducing the inalterable monolith required by all seismographs.

Building in re-inforced concrete answers the exigencies indicated by Mr. de Montessus de Ballore. It also allows of the addition of certain architectural ornaments, otherwise practically prohibited, such as cornices, balconies, and even arches, since such ornaments constitute integral parts of the whole and vibrate in synchronism with the whole building. Re-inforced concrete allows also of building up to any height, the only limit being the danger of overturning. Therefore, the larger the area of the base, the higher also may the building be erected.

Re-inforced concrete has sometimes been criticized because of its architectural and artistically poor results, and also because of the want of comfort of such buildings. This kind of criticism is due either to mere ignorance, or to manifest ill-will emanating from interested motives. Many architects—not of small renown—have adopted re-inforced concrete, and obtained excellent results in all respects, well realizing the minute artistic and practical desiderata of the intelligent public. There are, in every country, monuments and other works of art in re-inforced concrete, which compare advantageously with others made in the usual way.

We cannot give technical information in these columns on such a special subject. Such would be out of the scope of an ordinary article written for a newspaper, but interested parties will no doubt address themselves to the specialists and we do not hesitate to say that the statements we have made as to the value of re-inforced concrete in building construction will be fully confirmed and largely amplified. The recent earthquake alone is sufficient justification for serious investigation of new building methods which have proved so efficacious in other seismic areas.

#### TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

The promotion of Admiral Wemyss brings the Army and the Navy under the control of two Scotsmen, Sir Douglas Haig, of course, being a real Knight of the Thistle. It tempts one to look around at the small number of high offices now held by Englishmen, says the Daily Chronicle. We have a Welsh Prime Minister, Scotsmen as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Foreign Secretary, an Irish member of the War Cabinet, while in the earlier days of the war we put our trust in two other Irishmen—Lord Kitchener and Lord French. The Geddes family, now holding several high offices, are Scotch and the majority of our Army commands are also held by men from beyond the Border.

Mr. Percy Thornton, ex-M.P. for Clapman, who has just entered his 77th year, was a famous athlete in his "Varsity days, and won the amateur championship in the half-mile race in 1886. Mr. Thornton was a fine horseman, and was one of the last M.P.'s to keep to the old practice of riding to the House of Commons. He is the representative of a famous family that was honourably associated with the great Clapham sect which in the early years of the 19th century was distinguished by its philanthropy and public spirit, and which was adorned by the great names of Wilberforce, Macaulay, and Borton. There is a fine appreciation of the Clapham sect in Sir James Stephen's admirable essays in ecclesiastical biography.

It is pathetic that one of the prizewinners for the Walker Trust competition has passed away before he could hear the result. This is the Rev. Forbes Phillips, of Gorseston, who was not only a writer, but a dramatist as well. The first prize under the Walker scheme, for the best essay on "Prayer," goes to America, the winner being Rev. Samuel McComb. Over 1,500 essays entered the competition.

The Earl of Westmorland, the engagement of whose son has been broken off, bears a name which figured prominently in the news of a Christmas nearly a century ago. The Cato-street Plot was to have matured at his house. Lord Westmorland's ancestor and all the members of the Government were to be murdered, and their heads cut off and posted at various parts of the City. The Tower was to be captured, fires were to be started, and the mob raised. But Lord Westmorland's party was spared, and a Cabinet dinner at Lord Harrowby's selected. Before the blow could fall the conspirators were arrested.

Two Southern States are seriously considering the adoption of compulsory education, says the New York Evening Post. Four years ago Governor Manning recommended a "local optional compulsory attendance law" to South Carolina. Such a law was passed and has been accepted more than two hundred school districts. Now he thinks the time has come for a long sleep, and accordingly he recommends a law for the entire State, permitting exemption for its operation "only to the districts petitioning for suspension of the law for a year." The Columbia State, we should expect, urges this tension. "Without compulsory school attendance," it says, "democracy is as a one-fifth of the people of South Carolina are illiterate. Many are nearly illiterate." As for money, it must be raised—"if in one way, by taxation, then another, by a bond issue." It is a bill has passed the House of Delegates which, in the opinion of the Richmond Times, marks the beginning of a epoch in the educational history of the General Assembly. It writes it into law. There is the question of money, an obstacle, and another is the present negro problem. It must be regarded as obvious in this connection, the Times, although education of white blacks on equal terms, means in Virginia, as in the present building, one must often meet with no other race.



## HOCKEY.

**H.K. Defence Corps v. Royal Navy.**

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| KOREA MARU   | 15,000 | 24th May.      |
| SIBERIA MARU | 15,000 | 8th June.      |

The S.S. "NIPPON MARU" and S.S. "PERIA MARU" omit call at Shanghai.

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THENCE BY TRANS ANDERSON ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES.

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|                   |           |                     |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| SHANGHAI          | Sinking   | 28th Mar. at 3 p.m. |
| SWATOW & BANGKOK  | Luchow    | 29th Mar. at 9 a.m. |
| SWATOW & SHANGHAI | Tamsui    | 29th Mar. at 9 a.m. |
| SHANGHAI          | Sungkiang | 30th Mar. at 3 p.m. |
| SHANGHAI          | Sunning   | 2nd Apr. at 3 p.m.  |

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Hongkong March 27, 1918.

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|-----------|------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
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| Tijpanao  | Java | 27th Mar.            | 6th Apr.               | Amoy & S'hai |
| Tijpanao  | Java | 29th Mar.            | 8th Apr.               | Amoy & S'hai |

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(Occupying 9 to 10 days.)

| Steamships. | Captain       | Leaving.                  |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Hailan      | A. E. Hodgins | FRI., 29th Mar. at noon.  |
| Hailong     | J. W. Evans   | THURS., 4th Apr. at noon. |

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| For      | Steamship | On                         |
|----------|-----------|----------------------------|
| MANILA   | Yuensang  | Thur., 28th Mar. at 3 p.m. |
| HAIPHONG | Taksang   | Sat., 30th Mar. at 7 a.m.  |
| SHANGHAI | Wingsang  | Fri., 5th Apr. at 4 p.m.   |
| MANILA   | Loongsang | Fri., 5th Apr. at 3 p.m.   |

CALCUTTA LINE.—Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta calling at Singapore and Penang.

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SHANGHAI LINE.—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes calling at Swatow. Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai.

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## SHIPPING NEWS.

Pool all Allied Shipping.

A canvas of the opinions of New York shipping men in regard to the proposed pool of Allied and neutral shipping brought forth quite a variety of opinions (says the "New York Journal of Commerce"). However, the weight of opinion was to approve of the idea. Favourable opinions were expressed both by American and British shipping men. In general those who favour the scheme feel that it would be but a logical extension of the various schemes of requisition which have already been put into effect. It is pointed out that all British and all American ocean going shipping is now under requisition, while varying percentages of French and Italian tonnage have been requisitioned. In other words, it is felt that the right atmosphere has been created for pooling all tonnage. The Government hand is already over ships and shipping. Up to the present, it was learned, it has been the practice to offer neutral shipping, coming under British or Allied control in Europe to the Inter-Allied Chartering Committee, with the headquarters at London. Some neutral ships are now being fixed direct in New York with the approval of both the British and United States authorities. Many of the neutral ships being fixed here are being used for war shipments to France. Neutral ships fixed in London are being sent where the need for them seems greatest. Discussions of the proposed pool among the shipping men invariably lead to mention of the Allied Chartering Committee and its American counterpart, the Chartering Committee of the United States Shipping Board. It is taken for granted that as far as Europe is concerned the headquarters of the pool would be at London with full co-operation between the city and Washington. On the other hand, one finds a very decided opinion prevalent to the effect that London control of U.S. shipping would not work smoothly. Decisions, it is pointed out, would necessarily have to be arbitrary and in many instances there would be honest differences of opinion between the pool and U.S. shipowners as to the wisdom of what was being done. In some quarters this view of the situation was expressed quite strongly. However, it is generally believed that the negotiations have already progressed to an advanced stage, as otherwise it is hardly thought the press announcements would have been sent out from Washington. Everything points to the scheme as one primarily for the control of neutral tonnage. Among other things, it is felt that the neutrals have profited very handsomely by the high freight rates prevailing since the war, and that it would be no great hardship if their tonnage was now systematized in a way to benefit the Allies and the neutrals themselves on some equitable plan. Among the Allies the United States and the United Kingdom are in a much stronger position than France and Italy. Both the latter countries have been assisted to a considerable extent already. It is generally understood that something like 2,000,000 tons of British shipping at "blue-boat" rates has been placed at the disposal of the French Government to fill France's needs. Italy has so been assisted by both British and American tonnage. The pooling scheme will undoubtedly demand a good deal of tact, resourcefulness and tolerance. Recriminations between Britain, France, and Italy over shipping matters have not been uncommon in the Press of the different countries in quite recent months. Only three or four weeks ago, M. Lorr, Minister of Maritime Affairs in the French Government made the following statement in the course of a debate in which shipping matters bulked largely: "The Allied commercial fleets are to be completely pooled. Negotiations are being conducted at present to adjust the means of the Allies to their necessities. We are urging on our Allies combined negotiations as regards economic as well as diplomatic and military questions, so as to arrive at complete equality as regards sacrifices and as regards restrictions. It would be perfectly unjust, indeed, after having suffered more than other belligerents, if France, which has exhausted a large portion of its resources, should have to support more restrictions. I demand economic equality as well as military equality at the time."







## COMPANY MEETINGS.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

## (VERBATIM).

The forty-ninth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., was held at the office of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, to-day. The Hon. Mr. D. Landale, president, and there were also present:—Sir Paul Chater, O.M.G., Sir Robert Ho Tung, the Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Messrs. C. S. Gubbay, F. Maitland and H. R. White, (directors), Mr. L. N. Leese (Secretary), the Hon. Mr. H. Fook, Messrs. D. V. Stevenson, C. A. De Rosa, G. K. Harton, Ho Leung, Lo Cheung-shui, H. Percy Smith, C. Beswick, G. Grimble, and A. R. Lowe (shareholders).

The Chairman said:—As it is past the hour for which this meeting was called, I will ask the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

After the Secretary had read the notice,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, you will, I have no doubt, agree to my following the usual course of taking the report and accounts as read, for they have been in your hands for some time. The underwriting operations for the period under review have, I am glad to say, again been very successful. The loss ratio for the closed year works out at as low as 36.29 per cent. The expense ratio is very moderate, and a substantial profit therefore has to be recorded for 1917. For 1917 also the underwriting results are, up to date, quite good, and if the second year's experience is up to the average we should again have a good profit to show on the termination of this year. Losses in the Far Eastern field have, if anything, been more numerous than usual. There have been large out-breaks in Europe occupied properties in the Philippines, in Kobe, in Hankow and in Shanghai, and as we must, I think, regard ourselves as fortunate in having so good a result to show. The most adverse influence on our figures has been exchange. A year ago my predecessor in the chair made reference to the diminution which had been thus caused in the value of our gold assets expressed in local currency, and of course a corresponding shrinkage also occurs in the profits of our gold-using agencies affecting our Working Account. Since that date exchange has had a yet larger rise—from 2/4 to 3/-—an increase of 25 per cent. It is remarkable, I think, in spite of this, the Premium Income of the Company is at a level which was only exceeded in 1915. Our holding in British, Indian and Colonial Government securities has increased by 225,000, due to further purchases of British and Colonial War Loans. One of the results of this larger acquisition of gold assets has been that the amount held in reserve to the credit of Investment and Exchange Fluctuation Account has proved insufficient, and as a loss actually occurred in 1917 the Working Account of that year has been debited with a sum sufficient to meet this, and leave a small balance to the credit of this fund. Exchange, since the turn of the year, has risen still further, and the Consulting Committee regard it as wise therefore to pass the further sum of \$98,034.73 from that profits of Working Account 1916 to the credit of this Account. I regard this continuous writing-off as constituting practically a hidden reserve, for it is quite clear that whenever exchange resorts to the level of pre-war days there will be an automatic return of a very large amount of dollars to the Company. The Company's holding in Foreign Gold Loans is reduced, for an investment, referred to at our last annual meeting, in the Bonds of the Russian Government has had to be heavily written down since the finances of that unfortunate country became involved in the throes and stress of the disintegrating influence of the gigantic revolution which is shaking the entire structure of that vast nation. You will, I make no doubt, applaud the action of the management in again con-

tributing \$5,000 to the local fund for the support of war charities—action which received, I am glad to recall, your heartfelt approval a year ago. After making these provisions and appropriations, and adding \$5,000 to the credit of Reinsurance Fund, we are able to recommend to payment out of the Working Account 1916 of the usual dividend of \$27 per share, and I should add that the staff has not been forgotten. The pressure upon them is heavier and the difficulties of management, greater in times such as these, and it will, I hope, have been in accordance with your wishes that the Consulting Committee voted a bonus of 15 per cent. on their salaries as was paid last year. During the course of 1917, an Ordinance was passed affecting Fire and Marine Insurance Companies transacting business in the Colony as was foreshadowed in the Chairman's speech a year ago, and a similar measure has also become law in the Straits Settlements and is contemplated, I understand, also by the Government of the Federated Malay States. The passing of the local Ordinance had our support, and we believe it will be of benefit to the cause of clean and sound insurance business generally. Gentlemen, the Company has now entered upon its fiftieth year—its jubilee year. It is too much to hope that when this time next year we cast our eyes back on the progress and activities of this small but vigorous local Company, the feeling of satisfaction with which we may expect to contemplate them may no longer be overshadowed by the world's greatest tragedy, but that we may enter upon our 51st year of existence with the terrors of the war behind us? I now have pleasure in moving:—

"That the report and accounts as presented, including the payment of a dividend of \$27 per share; an addition of \$98,034.73 to the Investment and Exchange Fluctuation Account; of \$5,000 to the Reinsurance Fund; and the payment of a bonus to staff of 15 per cent. upon their salaries, be adopted and passed."

The Chairman:—The resolution is now before the meeting. The resolution which you have just heard read has been proposed by myself and seconded by Mr. Stevenson. Those in favour please hold up their hands. Against? Carried unanimously. The next business, gentlemen, is the election of the Consulting Committee. In accordance with the Articles of Association the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, O.M.G., Sir Robert Ho Tung, Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Messrs. White, Maitland and Gubbay retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. Harton:—I beg to move the re-election of the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, O.M.G., Sir Robert Ho Tung, Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Messrs. White, Maitland and Gubbay to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. De Rosa:—I have much pleasure in seconding.

The Chairman:—It has been proposed by Mr. Harton, and seconded by Mr. De Rosa that the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, O.M.G., Sir Robert Ho Tung, Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Messrs. White, Maitland and Gubbay be re-elected to the Consulting Committee. Those in favour please hold up their hands. Against? Carried unanimously. The next business, gentlemen, is the election of auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. Beswick:—I beg to propose that Mr. H. Percy Smith, F.O.A., and Mr. A. R. Lowe, F.O.A., be appointed auditors for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$500.

Mr. Ho Fook:—I beg to second that.

The Chairman:—It has been proposed by Mr. O. W. Beswick, and seconded by Mr. Ho Fook, that Mr. H. Percy Smith and Mr. A. R. Lowe, be appointed auditors for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$500. Those in favour please show in the usual

way. Against? Carried unanimously. That in all the business gentlemen, thank you for your attendance. Dividend Warrants are now ready and may be obtained on application.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.

The fortieth ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders of the China Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., was held to-day at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., General Managers. The Hon. Mr. D. Landale presided and there were present:—Sir Paul Chater, O.M.G., Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Mr. F. Maitland, Mr. A. O. Lang and Mr. H. P. White (directors), Mr. G. M. Shaw (Manager), Mr. O. W. Beswick (Secretary), Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, Messrs. A. J. David, E. J. Grist, F. P. de Graze, Lo Cheung-shui, J. W. Stewart, Choo Poon, S. E. de Luns, Ho Kwong, H. B. Hancock, A. G. O. da Silva, R. M. Austin, D. G. M. Bernard, A. O. Davidson, F. Smyth, H. M. H. Nemesse, A. E. Crappell and P. O. Potts (shareholders).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, as it is now past the hour for which this meeting has been called, I will ask the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

After the notice had been read, The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, the statement of accounts, with the auditors' certificate attached, having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission take them as read. We regret having to submit such an unfortunate statement of last year's working, but you are doubtless well aware that sugar is subject to wide fluctuations in value, and it is due to a decline of about 5 per cent. in Java raw prices, and greatly increased costs of refining that the year shows such an adverse result. The scarcity of tonnage brought about the heavy decline in Java sugar prices during the past 12 to 15 months, as it was impossible to market the crop adequately, and as this affected values in China, we had to write down our refined stocks very considerably. During the past 12 months prices in China have dropped roughly about 1/3 per cent. In fact, the loss on our China business has been extremely heavy, as during the period under review we made quite satisfactory profits on our orders for other outlets. Japanese competition has been keener than ever and the output of Japanese refineries has increased during the year. The high rate of silver exchange is of great assistance to them, but their own protected market is their strong point. The position practically resolves itself into this, the Chinese consumer of refined sugar is supplied by the Japanese refineries at the expense of the Japanese consumer, and I wonder how long the Japanese consumer will be content with this state of affairs. At times the Japanese refineries were even selling refined sugar in China below the cost of raw sugar. The scarcity of tonnage has affected us adversely in every way. We have to pay much higher rates on our raw and refined sugar and also upon all materials used in production etc. Take coal for instance, which is one of our most essential items. The additional cost over that of the previous year was about \$80,000 and I am afraid that it will be even worse for the current year. This is another matter where existing circumstances greatly benefit our neighbours in Japan. Since the war commenced, coal-owners in that country have been able to raise the E.C.B. price of coal from about 4/6 to 4/9 to 13/- per ton. There is reported to be plenty of coal in the neighbouring provinces of China, but the Chinese have so far done little or nothing to either develop their Southern coalfields themselves or to allow others to do so. The poor state of the China trade and the other adverse conditions have resulted in the slow movement of stock and consequently a heavy burden of interest, Fire Insurance etc. As regards raw sugar, we have fortunately pursued a hand-to-mouth policy for the past year or so, and our supplies are therefore only moderate and at

prices that may reasonably be assumed to be safe. Our policy of systematic repairs and renewal of the refinery plant and equipment is being maintained, and in addition to last year's allocation from profits of \$75,000, we have also spent \$37,196.46 which has been charged to the Working Account of year. These outlays were essential, but are showing satisfactory returns in the improved efficiency of our works. In spite of the unfortunate result of last year's working, the financial position of the Company is sound, as we now have a practically modern and well-equipped property standing in the books at less than the value of the last alone. You are doubtless aware that the values of almost all commodities have greatly enhanced owing to the war, and the inevitable reaction is only to be expected when there is a cessation of hostilities. When it is remembered that Java raw sugar advanced about 100 per cent. during 1915, and has declined almost to a similar extent during the past 12/18 months, it is to be hoped that our last year's unfortunate working, has embodied all the adverse re-adjustment of values that may be necessary, and that future conditions generally may be more favourable for us.

Sir Paul Chater:—I beg to second the adoption of the reports and accounts.

The Chairman:—The adoption of the report and accounts has been proposed by myself and seconded by Sir Paul Chater. It is now before the meeting for discussion. There being no questions, I will put the resolution to the meeting. Against? Carried unanimously. The next business, gentlemen, is the election of the Consulting Committee.

Mr. Grist:—I beg to propose that the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland and A. O. Lang be re-elected as Consulting Committee for the current year. Those in favour please show in the usual way. Against? Carried unanimously.

Mr. Hancock:—I have much pleasure in seconding.

The Chairman:—It has been proposed by Mr. E. J. Grist and seconded by Mr. H. B. Hancock that the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland and A. O. Lang be re-elected as Consulting Committee for the current year. Those in favour please show in the usual way. Against? Carried unanimously. The next business is the election of auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. Lo Cheung-shui:—I beg to propose that Mr. H. Percy Smith, F.O.A., and Mr. A. R. Lowe, F.O.A., be re-elected auditors for the year at a remuneration of \$500 each.

Mr. Crappell:—I beg to second that.

The Chairman:—It has been proposed by Mr. Lo Cheung-shui and seconded by Mr. Crappell that Mr. H. Percy Smith, F.O.A., and Mr. A. R. Lowe, F.O.A., be re-elected auditors for the year at a remuneration of \$500 each. Those in favour? Against? Carried unanimously. That in all the business gentlemen, thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants can be had on application.

Hongkong Ice Company Ltd.

The thirty-seventh ordinary annual meeting of shareholders of the Hongkong Ice Company, Ltd., was held to-day at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., General Managers. The Hon. Mr. D. Landale presided and there were also present:—Sir Paul Chater and Rev. Pere Robert (Directors), Mr. G. K. Harton (Manager), Mr. R. M. Austin (Secretary), Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, Messrs. A. V. Apoc, G. Hogg, A. B. Stewart, D. G. M. Bernard, O. W. Beswick, A. O. Davidson, L. Silva (shareholders).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, it is now past the time for which this meeting was called, and in accordance with the usual custom, I will ask the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

The notice having been read, The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts, with the auditors' report, having been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, take them as read. The result of

the year's working shows a decrease of \$1,492.37 as compared with 1916, the actual net profit for the year being \$87,032.60 as against \$88,525.47. The annual dividend of \$2 per share was paid in August last, and we now propose paying a final dividend of \$9 per share, which I trust you will consider satisfactory. We are also in a position to add to our provision for Contingencies Account to the extent of \$15,000 and carry forward \$14,312.60. Sales of ice show a slight increase over 1916, which, when it is borne in mind that, owing to the large increase in cost of coal, it was found necessary to increase the price of ice to 1/6 per lb., must be considered satisfactory. The cold storage branch, however, shows a decrease in revenue this year, owing to the partial stoppage of the export of meat. Your Manager reports that all machinery and buildings at the works are in first-class order and all launches and lighters have received their annual overhaul. Your General Managers have recently been approached by the Dairy Farm Co., with a view to their acquiring the business and undertaking of this Company. Their offer has been carefully considered, and as your General Manager and your Consulting Committee are of the opinion that an amalgamation would be to the advantage of shareholders, has been provisionally accepted. A provisional agreement has been signed. Both offer and acceptance are, however, conditional upon the sanction of general meetings of the shareholders of each Company. The main terms of the agreement are the acquisition of the undertaking and business of this Company in return for the issue to shareholders of eight shares of the Dairy Farm Co., of \$7.50 each credited as fully paid in respect of each share in this Company. It is proposed that our business be taken over from the 1st January last and that the accounts of the working of the two Companies be kept separate until the 31st July next. Provided the profits made by such working justify such a course, an interim dividend equal to the interim dividend of \$2 per share which has been paid for the last three years will then be paid in respect of the Dairy Farm shares to be issued to shareholders of this Company. After the 31st July, the accounts of both businesses will be combined and the profits divided among shareholders in the Dairy Farm Company, of which the proposed future name is "The Dairy Farm, Ice and Cold Storage Co., Ltd." It is also a part of the arrangement that your General Managers shall receive 2,000 shares in the Dairy Farm Co., of \$7.50 each credited as fully paid up, in consideration of certain restrictive covenants entered into by them and by way of bonus as compensation for their loss of office. An extraordinary meeting will be called shortly in connection with this matter, and I have no doubt that you will express your approval of the agreement. I now beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts, and after the resolution has been seconded, if any shareholders have any questions to ask, I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

Sir Paul Chater:—I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Chairman:—It has been seconded by Sir Paul Chater that the report and accounts be passed. If any shareholder has no question to ask, I will put the resolution to the meeting. Those in favour please show in the usual way. Against? Carried unanimously. The next business, gentlemen, is the re-election of the Consulting Committee.

Mr. Ho Fook:—I beg to propose that Sir Paul Chater and the Rev. Father Robert be re-elected to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. Beswick:—I beg to second that.

The Chairman:—It has been proposed by Mr. Ho Fook and seconded by Mr. Beswick that Sir Paul Chater and the Rev. Father Robert be re-elected to the Consulting Committee. Those in favour please hold up their hands. Against? Carried unanimously. The next business is the election of auditors.

Mr. Lo Cheung-shui:—I beg to propose that Mr. H. Percy Smith and Mr. E. A. M. Williams be re-elected auditors at a remuneration of \$200.

Mr. Stewart:—I beg to second.

The Chairman:—It has been proposed by Mr. Lo Cheung-shui and seconded by Mr. Stewart that Mr. H. Percy Smith and Mr. E. A. M. Williams be re-elected auditors at a remuneration of \$200 each. Those in favour? Against? Carried unanimously.

That in all the business gentlemen, thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants can be had to-day.

## MEXICO'S DEMANDS FOR GOLD.

WHAT America Proposes.

Washington, February 15.—The United States has proposed, as part of the commercial agreement now being negotiated, to permit enough gold to be exported to Mexico to satisfy President Carranza's immediate needs. Mexico now has the gold to her credit in American banks. No loan of any kind by the United States is contemplated.

Secretary Lansing to day positively denied that the United States proposed to make any loan, as stated in some published reports. The conferences which propose to permit the export of certain amounts of grain to meet Mexico's needs and the gradual export of gold to an American bank in Mexico City, which have been under way here, will now be resumed in Mexico City, where President Carranza will decide whether to accept the agreement. Mexico City, in various ways, has accumulated in the United States a gold credit, but because of the export embargo on gold has been unable to get at it. Some of it was derived from sales of tin and some from settlement of the new title in the Tehuantepec Railway. Gradually the sum, said to be between ten and fifteen millions, would be transferred to Mexico, if President Carranza accepts the agreement the United States proposes.

## WATER RETURN.

Level and Storage of water in Reservoirs on March 1, 1918.

CITY AND HILL DISTRICT WATER WORKS LEVEL.

|        | 1917            | 1918            |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |

STORAGE IN MILLIONS AND DECIMALS OF GALLONS.

|        | 1917 | 1918 |
|--------|------|------|
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |

Consumption of water in the City and Hill Districts in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of February.

|             | 1917   | 1918   |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |

Services to houses in the Hill District Main District and supply of water to public buildings, hospitals and all other public buildings during February 1918. Consumption in all districts.

KOWLOON WATER WORKS LEVEL.

|        | 1917            | 1918            |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |
| System | 17th Jan. Below | 31st Jan. Below |

STORAGE IN MILLIONS AND DECIMALS OF GALLONS.

|        | 1917 | 1918 |
|--------|------|------|
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |
| System | 2.45 | 2.45 |

Consumption of water in Kowloon in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of February.

|             | 1917   | 1918   |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| Consumption | 21,000 | 21,000 |

Services to houses in the Hill District Main District and supply of water to public buildings, hospitals and all other public buildings during February 1918. Consumption in all districts.

W. CHATHAM, Water Authority.

Public Works Department.

Trouble with Coal Coolies.

We are having a great deal of trouble with coal coolies just now, as there is no work for them," remarked Inspector Sim, to Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, when a coal coolie was charged with stealing several bamboo poles that had been placed outside a house in Green Street. There was previous conviction against the man for larceny and he had also been sentenced to one month's hard labour.

Mr. Lo Cheung-shui:—I beg to propose that Mr. H. Percy Smith and Mr. E. A. M. Williams be re-elected auditors at a remuneration of \$200.

Mr. Stewart:—I beg to second.

The Chairman:—It has been proposed by Mr. Lo Cheung-shui and seconded by Mr. Stewart that Mr. H. Percy Smith and Mr. E. A. M. Williams be re-elected auditors at a remuneration of \$200 each. Those in favour? Against? Carried unanimously.

That in all the business gentlemen, thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants can be had to-day.

## RACECOURSE DISASTER.

Evidence of the Cutting of Lashings.

The enquiry into the sad catastrophe which occurred at the Racecourse, Happy Valley, on February 26, was continued at the Police Court this morning, being conducted by Mr. J. R. Wood, sitting as Coroner. The following juryman were also present:—Messrs. A. E. Barlow (foreman), J. E. Wallace, and W. O. Jack.

Yesterday afternoon, Li Po Lung, property owner, 16, Des Voeux Central, gave evidence to the effect that he was in Shed No. 12 at the time of the collapse on the first floor. Before the collapse—about 2.50 p.m.—his son, aged 15 years, who was with him in the shed, told him that it seemed to him that someone was cutting the lashings down below. Witness then paid attention and he heard three distinct noises as though the lashings were being cut at the bottom of the upright near which he was standing.

Before the adjournment yesterday, the Coroner said he would like to hear evidence by the son of the previous witness.

This morning, a Chinese lad aged 15, said he was with his father in Shed No. 12 at the time of the catastrophe. He was on the lower floor and heard a noise as though someone was cutting the lashings. This was shortly before three o'clock. The lashings were being cut below them. He heard no conversation and did not see the people who were cutting. It was about two minutes afterwards that the sheds fell. He spoke to his father about the matchsticks going to fall, but he did not mention the cutting then. He did after they had got out.

His Worship:—Don't you think that the noise you heard was the sound of lashings of bursting as the sheds began to fall?—No; the noise was different, and the sounds were distinct.

By Mr. Wakemans:—He did not go into the basement at all, and could not say for what purpose it was used.

By His Worship:—He had never heard the sound of lashings bursting before.

By Mr. Bowley:—He had washed matched workmen taking down sheds and heard the cutting noise.

The Contractor (recalled) put in a model of sheds Nos. 8 and 9.

Replying to his Worship, the witness gave further particulars of the sheds, detailing those that had staircases, etc.

The rest of the hearing this morning was occupied by the contractor giving details of the staircases and exits of all the Sheds from No. 1 to No. 19. Mr. Wright, of the P. W. D., taking notes to assist him in the preparation of a plan.

Mr. W. J. Morrison, a fireman in the Hongkong Volunteer Fire Brigade, said he assisted in the fire which started after the collapse. He did not see the collapse. He saw smoke and a little later fire. He attempted to throw buckets of water on the fire, but the rails around the course intervened. He assisted in rescuing some of the people. With regard to the supply of water, he understood that more pressure had been telephoned for. The heat was so great that it was impossible to get very near the fire.

In reply to the Coroner, Mr. Morrison said the Golf Club house did not have the same connections as the Fire Brigade house.

Evidence was given by Mr. R. M. Austin, another Volunteer fireman, to the effect that he heard a sound, but turning round, saw the sheds practically on the ground. If the sheds had been all ready to play on the exact place where the fire broke out, some good might have been done, but it was impossible to stop it otherwise. Everything was done with the apparatus available. He had experience of the Fire Brigade work in Shanghai and Tianjin.

Expensive, expensive, Field also gave evidence.

The enquiry is proceeding.



## EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from page 7.)  
THE STRUGGLE IN FRANCE.

## French Troops to the Rescue.

London, March 25.  
A French communique states: French troops began on March 23rd to intervene in the battle on the British front. They relieved part of the British forces and took up the struggle on their own account. They are at present heroically fighting in the region of Noyon, disputing the heights on the right of the Oise with important German forces. There are violent artillery actions in the region of Courcy and Loivre, and north-west of Rheims. Two enemy coups-de-main east of Suippe in Champagne broke down. There is great artillery action between Arrancourt and the Vesges. The enemy at dawn attacked east of Blemery and east of Badoenwiller but was repulsed with heavy losses.

## German Advance Slowing Down.

London, March 25.  
This afternoon's British communique has deepened the confidence that the British will hold the enemy. Reports from Allied capitals breathe equal belief in the British soldiers' ability to wear down the enemy. Paris is particularly sanguine. News that the French had joined in led to expectations of important developments on the British right, whereat however the communique and comment are reserved. According to the latest despatch from Mr. Mr. Philip Gibbs, after four days of the most terrible slaughter the German advance is slowing down. The price they have paid for the ground won is simply stupendous, the casualties ranging from anything between 30 to 75 percent of their forces engaged, while the fighting units are hungry, exhausted, dazed and depressed at the receding prospect of the promised decisive victory.

Their progress has been stopped and it seems certain that our armies are now able to control the situation within the limits of safety. We are holding good lines and the blackest shadows are beginning to lift.

## America's Confidence.

London, March 25.  
Best informed opinion in Washington is absolutely confident. American military critics warn the public against unreservedly swallowing German communique, which are obviously chiefly inspired by a deliberate intention to create gloom, anxiety and fear among the Allies.

## More German Claims.

London, March 25.  
A wireless German official message says: We defeated the enemy in a tremendous struggle near Bapaume. We broke through a strong enemy position north-eastward of Bapaume after bitter fighting. Meanwhile our forces from east and south-east drove back the enemy via Ypres and Sully. The enemy's stubborn resistance which has been reinforced was broken in violent battle. Fresh divisions and numerous tanks vainly opposed our advance on the roads from Bapaume to Cambrai and Peronne.

During the night battle Bapaume fell into our hands. Hot fighting developed for the possession of Comblès and the heights westward in which the enemy was defeated. English cavalry attacks broke down. We are now standing in the middle of the former Somme battle-field. The Crown Prince with Von Hutier's army ascended in bitter fighting the heights westward of the Somme. Violent English infantry and cavalry counter-attacks broke down sanguinarily. We captured Neale. After crossing Crozat Canal we threw back the British, French and Americans via Lanesuvelles and Sillequier Amont. French infantry and cavalry divisions brought up for a counter-thrust were sanguinarily defeated. We captured Guiscard and Chauny. Prisoners now number 45,000.

## British Fighting Splendidly.

London, March 25.  
The War Office announces that we to-day have beaten off continuous heavy attacks on the front the Somme and Wancourt. French reinforcements are arriving.

A Press Bureau statement says the enemy has made some progress capturing Nesle and Guiscard. French reinforcements are arriving in this neighbourhood. Our troops, though tired, are of good heart and are fighting splendidly. The enemy is only progressing at the cost of heavy sacrifices. Our losses in material have been heavy and include a number of tanks.

## Stock Exchange Confident.

London, March 25.  
The Stock Exchange opened with a feeling of quiet confidence. Offerings of the leading securities were readily absorbed and quotations now show only slight declines on balance. Consols are quoted 85½ and War Loan 92½.

## PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

London, March 25.  
A Palestine official message says: We extended our positions on the left bank of the Jordan. One of our patrolling machines attacked five aeroplanes and brought down three uncontrollable. King Hedjaz's troops, near Jeddah, 78 miles north-westward of Medina, surprised and destroyed a Turkish Camel Corps.

## GERMANY AND ODESSA.

London, March 25.  
A wireless German message to Russia refuses to evacuate Odessa, because it is considered to be within Ukraine.

## JAPAN AND SIBERIA.

Osaka, March 25.  
Business men believe that immediate Japanese action in Siberia is unlikely.

## GERMAN SUBMARINE IN DISTRESS.

Ferrol, March 25.  
A German submarine of 400 tons, armed with two eleven centimetre guns with a crew of thirty, has entered here. The Commander stated the submarine was badly damaged as the result of a fight with three warships.

## NAVAL CASUALTIES.

London, March 25.  
The Admiralty announces that a mine-sweeping ship was mined and sank on March 22. Two officers and 84 men were lost. A destroyer after a collision on March 23 sank. One officer and one man were lost.

## CHINESE POLITICS.

Peking, March 25.  
Tsao Ch'i-jui has been re-appointed Premier, constituting a political triumph for the northern Provincial Governors, following their military successes against the southerners.

## A CAIRO REPORT.

Cairo, March 25.  
It is officially stated that a hostile airship has been observed on the coast.

## COMMERCIAL NEWS.

The New "Board of Trade Journal."

The Board of Trade Journal appeared on January 3, in a new form and with a greatly widened scope. The Journal is now printed in double columns on paper of foolscap size, has a white cover, and in appearance resembles a weekly commercial newspaper. Its price is 6d. (6d. post free), and the rate for annual subscriptions post free is 27s. 6d. All trade advertisements will be stopped after March 31, when the existing contract expires. The issue of January 3, contained authoritative special articles on the following subjects:—A foreword by the President of the Board of Trade upon the scope and purpose of the revised issue of the Journal. An introductory article upon "After War Trade," dealing with certain parts of the report of the Departmental Committees concerning which articles will appear in subsequent issues. A first article explanatory of the New Patents and Designs Bill: An article descriptive of the system of distribution of information which has been adopted by the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence). A section entitled "Notes on Trade" deals with other topics of current interest, and will contain, from week to week, explanatory notes upon important Orders affecting trade, Customs regulations, tariff changes and so on, of which the official text or substantial summaries appear in the Journal. A section entitled "Imperial and Foreign Trade" will in course of time, with the development of the service of Trade Commissioners in the Dominions and commercial attaches and consular officers in foreign countries become a most important feature of the Journal. A beginning will be made with this section in the first issue, and it may be expected to develop rapidly, and to become of increasing usefulness. In this section will appear particulars of such "openings for British trade" as may be published without detriment to the interests of British traders. The features of the old Journal, which dealt with Government notices affecting trade, Customs regulations, tariff changes, postal regulations and mails, will be re-arranged and, it is hoped, made more convenient for reference, and, as above mentioned, the official text will in important cases be explained under the heading "Notes on Trade."

## Philippines' Products.

The Bureau of Science is endeavouring to comply with a request from the raw products committee of the Council of National Research with headquarters at the Bureau Institute, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, asking its cooperation in securing trade samples of all types of Philippine products and partly prepared products both of established commercial position and those of strictly

limited production and use. One of the objects of the work of this committee is to determine the possible substitutes for commercial products which are now not obtainable in sufficient quantity to fulfill the war demand of the United States. The work of the committee is exceedingly comprehensive, covering oil-producing seeds, gums, resins, fibres, local textiles medicinal plants, tannins, dyes, and in fact, all products which have a commercial or a potential commercial value which may prove to be of benefit to the United States at the present time or in the immediate future. An attempt is being made to assemble the desired material at the Bureau of Science and the cooperation of the public, local manufacturers, and exporters is requested in order that the collection of Philippine commercial and possible commercial products may be made as extensive and representative as possible. The committee desires merely small samples of at most a few ounces of each product. It is believed that this may be the means of bringing some of our minor products to the attention of importers in the United States, and thus stimulate the local production of various commodities which are not now exported from the Philippines. Accordingly small commercial samples of all non-perishable, orade and partly prepared products of the Islands will be greatly appreciated in connection with propaganda. Data as to the origin and use of each sample will be added to the Bureau of Science before the products are forwarded to the United States.—*Manila Daily Bulletin.*

## Philippines Rice Trade.

Says the *Manila Daily Bulletin* of the 21st instant:—When in the past local dealers in Antique, particularly the Chinese who have enjoyed something of a monopoly in handling the rice crop of the province, have been able to collect at harvest time a caravan of palay for every peso loaned the farmer five or six months before his crop matured, rural credit associations to-day handle the situation there in a satisfactory manner, and instead of the farmer being required to turn back P3 50 worth of palay for each peso borrowed, he is now able to secure the funds he requires at an interest charge of five centavos per peso for the six month period, says A. W. Pratch, chief of the rural credit section of the Bureau of Agriculture, who returned to Manila yesterday morning from an extended trip through the southern provinces. Speaking of Antique, which has been somewhat of a pioneer in rural credit work, and of the town of Sibolom particularly, Dr. Pratch says that during the months preceding the harvest of the rice crop, the Chinese there were not able to loan out a single peso on the terms which they had hitherto imposed, while the rural credit associations succeeded in getting some P3,700 distributed among the farmers in small loans at a reasonable rate of interest. Mr. Pratch speaks very enthusiastically of the work which has been accomplished in rural credit extension in this and other southern provinces, and is preparing a report on his trip.

## HONGKONG SHARE REPORT.

S.—SELLERS; SA.—SALES; B.—BUYERS; N.—NOMINAL.

## OFFICIAL PRICES.

| BANKS.                        |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| H. K. & S. Banks a.           | \$ 605  |
| MARINE INSURANCES.            |         |
| Cantons b.                    | \$ 320  |
| North China b.                | 1.115   |
| Yanhsing b.                   | \$ 300  |
| Yungtses b. ex 78             | \$ 217  |
| FIRE INSURANCES.              |         |
| China Fires b.                | \$ 133  |
| H. K. Fires n.                | \$ 33   |
| SHIPPING.                     |         |
| Douglases n.                  | \$ 74   |
| Steamboats b.                 | \$ 119  |
| Indos (Def.) b.               | \$ 154  |
| Indos (Pref.) b.              | \$ 32   |
| Shells b.                     | 120/-   |
| Ferries s.                    | \$ 28   |
| REFINERIES.                   |         |
| Sugars sa.                    | \$ 80   |
| Malabons n.                   | \$ 29   |
| MINING.                       |         |
| Kailans b.                    | 40/-    |
| Langkats n.                   | 1.14    |
| Raubs s.                      | \$ 3    |
| Tronohs b.                    | 32/-    |
| Urals n.                      | 20/-    |
| Oriental Cons. n.             | 27/-    |
| DOCKS, WHARVES, GODOWNS, &C.  |         |
| H. K. Wharves sa. \$ 83½ & 85 |         |
| Kowloon Docks b. x. d.        | \$ 121½ |
| Shai Docks b.                 | 1.9     |
| LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.  |         |
| Centrals b.                   | \$ 90   |
| H. K. Hotels b.               | \$ 37½  |
| Land Invest. b.               | \$ 84   |
| H. K. Hotels b.               | \$ 37½  |
| K'loon Lands n.               | \$ 27½  |
| Shai Lands n.                 | 1.70    |
| West Points n.                | \$ 78   |
| Reclamations n.               | \$ 110  |
| COTTON MILLS.                 |         |
| Ewos b.                       | 1.174   |
| Kung Yiks b.                  | 1.151   |
| Shai Cottons b.               | 1.140   |
| Oriental b.                   | 1.43    |
| Yangtzepps b.                 | 1.9     |
| MISCELLANEOUS.                |         |
| Borneos b.                    | \$ 9    |
| China Light & P. b.           | \$ 7.10 |
| Providents b.                 | \$ 23   |
| Dairy Farms sa.               | \$ 7    |
| Green Islands b.              | \$ 44½  |
| H. K. Electric b.             | \$ 225  |
| H. K. Ice Co. n.              | \$ 26½  |
| Ropes s.                      | \$ 10   |
| Steel Foundries n.            | \$ 6.20 |
| Trams, Low Level s.           | \$ 3    |
| Trams, Peak, old s.           | cts. 80 |
| Laundries s.                  | \$ 4    |
| U. Waterboats n.              | \$ 11½  |
| Watsons b.                    | \$ 5    |
| Wat. Powells b.               | \$ 8½   |
| Morning Posts n.              | \$ 29   |

## CORRECTED TO NOON WEDNESDAY MARCH 27, 1918.

## BENJAMIN &amp; POTTS.

Share and General Brokers, Princes Building, Tel. address: Broker.

## EXCHANGE.

| SELLING.                  |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1/11                      | 3 3/8        |
| Demand                    | 3 1/4        |
| 30 d/s                    | 3 1/4        |
| 60 d/s                    | 3 1/4        |
| 4 m/s                     | 3 1/4        |
| 1/11 Shanghai             | Nom.         |
| 1/11 Singapore            | 132 1/4      |
| 1/11 Japan                | 141          |
| 1/11 India                | Nom.         |
| Demand India              | Nom.         |
| 1/11 San Francisco        | 73 1/4       |
| 1/11 Java                 | 161 1/4      |
| 1/11 Marks                | Nom.         |
| 1/11 Francs               | 4.19         |
| Demand Paris              | 4.19 1/2     |
| BUYING.                   |              |
| 4 m/s L/C                 | 3 1/4        |
| 4 m/s D/P                 | 3 1/4        |
| 6 m/s L/C                 | 3 1/4        |
| 30 d/s Sydney & Melbourne | 3 1/4        |
| 30 d/s San Francisco      | 74 1/4       |
| 4 m/s New York            | Nom.         |
| 4 m/s Marks               | 4.34         |
| 4 m/s Francs              | 4.49         |
| Demand Germany            | Nom.         |
| Demand New York           | Nom.         |
| 1/11 Bombay               | Nom.         |
| 1/11 Calcutta             | Nom.         |
| Demand Calcutta           | Nom.         |
| Demand Manila             | 146 1/4      |
| Demand Singapore          | 132 1/4      |
| On Haiphong               | 74 1/4 prem. |
| On Saigon                 | 74 1/4       |
| On Bangkok                | 50 1/4       |
| Sovereign                 | 6.40 Nom.    |
| Gold Leaf, per oz.        | 42           |
| Bar Silver, per oz.       | 42           |

## SUBSIDIARY COINS.

| DISCOUNT FEB 1918.      |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| H'kong 5 ct. p. sub. c. | \$ 4.00    |
| 10 " " " " " "          | 5.00       |
| 50 " " " " " "          | 1.50       |
| Canton 20 " " " " " "   | 7 1/4 dis. |

## BANKS.

## BANK OF CANTON, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE, HONGKONG.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking Business Transacted.

## INTEREST ON FIXED DEPOSITS.

For 3 Months 3% per annum.

For 6 Months 4% per annum.

For 12 Months 4 1/2% per annum.

LOOK POON SHAN, Chief Manager.

## BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE.

行銀業實法中.

Capital (34 Paid up) — France 45,000,000 (1/3 of the Capital subscribed by the Government of the Chinese Republic).

Chairman of the Board of Directors: Andre Berthelot. General Manager: A. J. Pernot.

HEAD OFFICE: 74 Rue Saint Lazare, PARIS.

BRANCHES: PEKING, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, HONGKONG, and SAIGON.

In FRANCE: Société Générale pour favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.

In LONDON: London County &amp; Westminster Bank Ltd.

In NEW YORK: Redmond &amp; Co.

In ITALY: Banca Commerciale Italiana.

Telegraphic Address: CHIBANKIND.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits. Terms on application.

Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

M. ROUET DE JOUBERT, Manager.

HONGKONG BRANCH: Queen's Building, Tel. No. 2332.

5, Chater Road, Hongkong, 20th August, 1917.

## NOTICES.

## PEAK TRAMWAY CO. LIMITED.

## TIME TABLE.

|            |            |         |
|------------|------------|---------|
| 9.00 A.M.  | 10.00 A.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 9.15 A.M.  | 10.15 A.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 9.30 A.M.  | 10.30 A.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 9.45 A.M.  | 10.45 A.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 10.00 A.M. | 11.00 A.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 10.15 A.M. | 11.15 A.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 10.30 A.M. | 11.30 A.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 10.45 A.M. | 11.45 A.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 11.00 A.M. | 12.00 P.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 11.15 A.M. | 12.15 P.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 11.30 A.M. | 12.30 P.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 11.45 A.M. | 12.45 P.M. | 15 MIN. |
| 12.00 P.M. | 1.00 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 12.15 P.M. | 1.15 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 12.30 P.M. | 1.30 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 12.45 P.M. | 1.45 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 1.00 P.M.  | 2.00 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 1.15 P.M.  | 2.15 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 1.30 P.M.  | 2.30 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 1.45 P.M.  | 2.45 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 2.00 P.M.  | 3.00 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 2.15 P.M.  | 3.15 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 2.30 P.M.  | 3.30 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 2.45 P.M.  | 3.45 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 3.00 P.M.  | 4.00 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 3.15 P.M.  | 4.15 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 3.30 P.M.  | 4.30 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 3.45 P.M.  | 4.45 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 4.00 P.M.  | 5.00 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 4.15 P.M.  | 5.15 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 4.30 P.M.  | 5.30 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 4.45 P.M.  | 5.45 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 5.00 P.M.  | 6.00 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 5.15 P.M.  | 6.15 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 5.30 P.M.  | 6.30 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 5.45 P.M.  | 6.45 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 6.00 P.M.  | 7.00 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 6.15 P.M.  | 7.15 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
| 6.30 P.M.  | 7.30 P.M.  | 15 MIN. |
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